

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 ERDA-05

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R 181915Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6320

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SAO PAULO 1484

RIO PASS USIS OFFICE BELO HORIZONTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, BR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT REINSTITUTES PRESS CENSORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

1. THE SIX MONTH SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL POLICE CENSORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

TO THE NEWS MEDIA WAS INTERRUPTED ON/OR ABOUT JULY 4TH. FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE FEDERAL POLICE IN SAO PAULO TELEPHONED INSTRUCTIONS TO "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO", "FOLHA DE SAO PAULO" AND THE "DIARIOS ASSOCIADOS" CHAIN NOT TO PRINT ANY ARTICLES RELATING TO THE PRESUMED THEFT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IN SAO JOSE DOS CAMPOS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE POLICE REPORTEDLY WARNED THE MEDIA NOT TO REPORT ARRESTS IN NATIONAL SECURITY CASES.

2. NONE OF THE THREE MEDIA ESTABLISHMENTS HAD THE SAO JOSE STORY WHEN THEY RECEIVED THE TELEPHONE INSTRUCTIONS. WHILE AT LEAST ONE OF THE TWO NEWSPAPERS DELVED INTO THE ALLEGED THEFT SUBSEQUENTLY, NEITHER HAS PUBLISHED A REPORT CONCERNING THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS FINDINGS. NOR HAS EITHER OF THE TWO NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED THE FACT THAT IT RECEIVED POLICE INSTRUCTIONS RELATING

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TO THE MATTER. "O ESTADO", HOWEVER, MANAGED TO ALLUDE

TO THE ISSUE IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY. IN A NOTE DATED FROM
BRASILIA TUCKED AWAY ON PAGE SIX OF ITS JULY 6TH ISSUE,
"O ESTADO" REPORTED THAT THE "JORNAL DE BRASILIA" HAD RECEIVED
A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A FEDERAL POLICE DEPARTMENT (DPF)
AGENT PROHIBITING IT FROM "DIVULGING TWO NEWS STORIES". THE
SUBSTANCE OF THE TWO FORBIDDEN NEWS ITEMS WAS NOT MENTIONED.
"O ESTADO" ALSO FAILED TO MENTION THE FACT THAT IT TOO HAD
RECEIVED SUCH AN INSTRUCTION, EXCEPT BY INFERENCE. IT
REPORTED "JORNAL DE BRASILIA'S" STATEMENT THAT "ACCORDING TO
ITS INFORMATION, THE PROHIBITION WAS VALID FOR THE ENTIRE
COUNTRY".

3. ACCORDING TO ASSOCIATED PRESS' SAO PAULO OFFICE, WHICH
SUPERFICIALLY RESEARCHED THE THEFT STORY, A RECENT INVENTORY
AT THE INSTITUTO DE PESQUISAS ESPACIAS (INPE) IN SAO JOSE
CAME UP WITH ONE PACKAGE OF IRIIDIUM MISSING. AP WAS
UNCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ACTUALLY HAD BEEN A ROBBERY OR
MERELY A SHORT COUNT IN A SHIPMENT OF
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS RECEIVED LAST DECEMBER.

4. THE POLICE INSTRUCTION CONCERNING THE THEFT, BY ITS
NATURE, IS CONFINED TO A SINGULAR, SPECIFIC NEWS EVENT. PRESUMABLY,
THE PROSCRIPTION OF NEWS STORIES CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY
ARRESTS WAS RELATED TO THE SAME CASE AND WAS ALSO A ONE-TIME
AFFAIR. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE AMBIGUOUS MANNER IN WHICH
THIS INSTRUCTION REPORTEDLY WAS WORDED, IT COULD BE INTERPRETED
AS A BLANKET PROHIBITION AGAINST DISSEMINATION OF ANY NATIONAL
SECURITY ARRESTS, AN ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF
THE CENSORSHIP CONTROVERSY IN BRAZIL IN RECENT YEARS. THE
"DIARIOS ASSOCIADOS" CHAIN, TO PLAY IT SAFE, HAS INTERPRETED
THE INSTRUCTION IN THE BROADER SENSE AND AT LEAST FOR THE
IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS LAYING OFF NATIONAL SECURITY ARRESTS STORIES
(UNLESS ORIGINATED BY AN OFFICIAL SOURCE).

5. THE WAY THE "O ESTADO" PLAYED THE INPE ISSUE, WE THINK, IS
INDICATIVE OF THE WAY IT HAS BEEN PRACTICING SELF-CENSORSHIP
(WITHOUT POLICE INSTRUCTIONS) SINCE JANUARY. ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS RIO'S "JORNAL DE BRASIL" HAS SCOOPED "O ESTADO"
ON SENSITIVE POLITICAL STORIES ORIGINATING IN SAO PAULO. IT
WAS ONLY AFTER THESE ITEMS APPEARED IN THE RIO NEWSPAPER
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THAT "O ESTADO" DECIDED TO PRINT ITS OWN WATERED-DOWN
VERSIONS.

6. THERE WERE STATEMENTS CIRCULATING IN THE PRESS ABOUT A
MONTH AGO THAT THE JUSTICE MINISTRY WAS CONSIDERING LIFTING
ITS DIRECT PRIOR CENSORSHIP OF THE HANDFUL OF PERIODICALS STILL
SUBJECTED TO THIS PRACTICE. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF PERIODICALS
UNDERGOING THIS FORM OF CENSORSHIP HAS INCREASED IN RECENT

WEEKS, NOT DECREASED. THE NEW SAO PAULO BASED "ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT" WEEKLY TABLID "MOVIMENTO" WAS SUBJECTED TO PRIOR CENSORSHIP TO A PARTICULARLY STRINGENT DEGREE EVEN BEFORE ITS FIRST ISSUE, DATED JULY 7, HIT THE NEWSTANDS. BY CONCTACTUAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DISTRIBUIDORA ABRIL, "MOVIMENTO" IS SUPPOSED TO BE DISTRIBUTED ALONG WITH THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE "VEJA" ON SATURDAYS VIA ABRIL'S DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THE FEDERAL POLICE IN SAO PAULO HAVE BEEN REQUIRING "MOVIMENTO" TO SEND ITS ADVANCE COPY TO THE CENSOR'S OFFICE NO EARLIER THAN FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK. MOREOVER, "MOVIMENTO" HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO BEGIN DISTRIBUTION OF THE ISSUES THEMSELVES UNTIL AFTER THE CENSORS HAVE INSPECTED THE FIRST COPIES OFF THE PRESSES TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEIR INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED. REPORTEDLY, HOWEVER, THE POLICE ARE NOW SOMEWHAT MORE INCLINED TO EASE UP AND HAVE AGREED TO RECEIVE THE INITIAL DRAFTS ON WEDNESDAYS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6321

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RIO PASS USIS OFFICE BELO HORIZONTE

7. IT MAY BE THAT THE POLICE HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY STRINGENT WITH REGARD TO "MOVIMENTO" BECAUSE ITS HARD CORE STAFF WAS FORMED BY FORMER CONTRIBUTORS AND STAFFERS OF "OPNIAO" FIRD BY DIRECTOR FERNANDO GASPARIAN, ALLEGEDLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTICULARLY VIRULENT LEFTIST,

ANTI-GOVERNMENT VIEWS. "MOVIMENTO'S" EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD INCLUDES FEDERAL DEPUTY ALENCAR FURTADO (MDB/PARANA); AUDALIO DANTAS, THE NEW HEAD OF THE SAO PAULO JOURNALISTS TRADE UNION; ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT SINGER/COMPOSER CHICO BUARQUE DE HOLANDA; CEBRAP DIRECTOR FERNANDO HENRIQUE CARDOSO AND FAMED INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGIST ORLANDO VILLAS BOAS. THE EDITORIAL BOARD INCLUDES CASSATED DEPUTY FRANCISCO PINTO AND EX-"GAZETA DO MERCANTIL" STAFFER, BERNARDO KUCINSKI, THE BROTHER OF THE "MISSING" ANA ROSA KUCINSKI. RESPONDING TO CRITICISM THAT THE POLICE WERE SUBJECTING "MOVIMENTO" TO PRIOR CENSORSHIP EVEN BEFORE THE APPEARANCE OF ITS FIRST ISSUE, THE DPF IN BRASILIA ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JULY 3 THAT THE "WEEKLY PROPAGANDA SHEET CONTAINED MATERIAL INCITING VIOLENCE AND ENCOURAGING THE DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY, CRIMES ENCOMPASSED UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW". WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMONG THE ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCISED WERE ARTICLES PERTAINING TO THE PASSENGER RIOTS ON THE CENTRAL DO BRASIL RAILROAD IN RIO, THE ALLEGED F-5 SCANDAL AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL. WHAT IS LEFT SO FAR HAS BEEN A PAPER WHICH IS MORE CULTURAL, CONSIDERABLY LESS POLITICAL AND LESS CONTROVERSIAL THEN "OPNIAO" IN CONTENT.

8. THE "FOLHA" OF JULY 17 REPORTED AN ALLEGATION THAT THE THIRD ISSUE OF THE BELO HORIZONTE-BASED MAGAZINE "CIRCUS" FAILED TO REACH THE NEWSSTANDS BECAUSE 95 PERCENT OF ITS CONTENTS HAD BEEN EXCISED BY CENSORS. THE MAGAZINE ALLEGED THAT AMONG THE MATERIAL REMOVED AS AN ARTICLE RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. "CIRCUS", IT MAY BE RECALLED, PRODUCED A WIDELY DISSEMINATED ISSUE LAST YEAR CONTAINING SENSATIONAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE RIGHT-WING PARAMILITARY GROUP KNOWN AS THE "BRAZILIAN SOCIETY FOR THE DEFENSE OF

TRADITION, FAMILY AND PROPERTY" (TFP), BY A FORMER MEMBER.

9. THE SAO PAULO-BASED TABLOID "EX" REPORTEDLY ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT ITS COPY TO DIRECT PRIOR CENSORSHIP BY THE FEDERAL PLICE, BUT ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST INFORMATION THIS ORDER HAS BEEN RESCINDED.
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